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Dictionary
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
UNABRIDGED

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poly-embryonic also **poly-embryonate** or **poly-embryonal** \pə-ˈembri-ɒn-əl/ *adj* [polyembryon + -ic or -ate or -al]: consisting of or having several embryos; exhibiting polyembryony
poly-embryony \pə-ˈembri-ɒ-ni/ *n* [polyembryon + -y]: production of two or more embryos by an ovule or egg that is typical of many seed plants and that in some insects results in the production of hundreds of individuals from a single egg
poly-ene \pə-ˈliːn-ən/ *n* [poly + -ene]: an organic chemical compound containing many double bonds; esp.: such a compound having the double bonds in a long aliphatic hydrocarbon chain (as in carotene or vitamin A) — **poly-enic** \pə-ˈliːn-ən-ik/ *adj*

poly-energic \pə-ˈliːn-ɪk/ *adj* [poly + energic]: orig. formed in G): comprising several or many energids (a coenzyme is ~)
poly-enzymatic \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-mat-ik/ *adj* [poly + enzymatic]: producing or containing several different enzymes

poly-ergus \pə-ˈliːn-ɜːr-gəs/ *n* [NL, fr. Gk *polyergos* hardworking, fr. *poly* much (fr. *polys* much, many) + *ergon* work — more at **POLY-** WORK] 1 *cap*: a genus of ants containing the Amazon ants 2 *ES*: any ant of the genus *Polyergus*

poly-ester \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ster/ *n* [poly + ester]: 1 a complex ester formed by polymerization or condensation (as of a polyhydric alcohol with a polybasic acid) for use chiefly in making fibers, resins, and plastics or as a plasticizer; esp.: a linear polymer formed from a glycol and a dicarboxylic acid 2 *a*: POLYESTER FIBER *b*: POLYESTER RESIN

polyester fiber *n*: a synthetic fiber consisting wholly or chiefly of a polyester; esp.: a quick-drying resilient fiber made in filament and staple form from ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid or its dimethyl ester and often blended with other fibers (as wool or cotton)

poly-esterification \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ster-ɪ-fə-ˈkeɪ-shən/ *n* [polyester + -ification (as in esterification)]: the formation of a polyester

polyester resin or **polyester plastic** *n*: any of various synthetic resins or plastics consisting of or made from polyesters: as *a*: ALKYD *b*: a resin that has the same chemical composition as the common polyester fiber but that is extruded as a film (as for use in packaging, as electrical insulation, or as a base for magnetic recording tapes) *c*: a thermosetting resin that is made from an unsaturated polyester (as one formed from a glycol and maleic acid or fumaric acid), cured by copolymerization (as with styrene), and often reinforced with fillers (as glass fibers) and that is used chiefly in impregnating and laminating and in making cast and molded products

poly-estrous or **poly-estrous** \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ster-əs/ *adj* [poly + estrous, oestrous]: having more than one period of estrus in a year

poly-ethnic \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-θnik/ *adj* [poly + ethnic]: formed of or inhabited by many peoples (~ areas)

poly-ethylene \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-θiːn/ *n* [poly + ethylene]: a polymer of ethylene; esp.: one of a group of partially crystalline lightweight thermoplastics (~ polypropylene) that have good resistance to chemicals, low moisture absorption and good insulating properties, that vary from soft to hard and from tough and flexible to rigid according to the conditions of manufacture (as at high, medium, or atmospheric pressure) and the type of catalyst, and that are used chiefly in the form of film (as in food packaging and garment bags), pipe and tubing, and molded products (as squeeze bottles and other containers) and as electrical insulation esp. in cables

polyethylene glycol *n*: a member of the series of water-soluble poly-ether glycols HOCH₂CH₂(OCH₂CH₂)_nOH higher than diethylene glycol and triethylene glycol that vary in molecular weight from 200 to 6000 or more, that are used, obtained as mixtures by condensation of ethylene oxide with water or diethylene glycol, and that are used chiefly as lubricants (as in the rubber and textile industries), solvents, softeners, bases for pharmaceutical ointments and cosmetic creams, and in the form of their fatty acid esters as surface-active agents (commercially available polyethylene glycols are designated by numbers that approximate their average molecular weights — Franklin Johnston) — compare POLYGLYCOL

poly-foil \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-foɪl/ *n* [poly + foil]: MULTIFOL. **poly-functional** \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-fən-kʃən-əl/ *adj* [poly + functional]: having many functions (~ acids) **poly-functionality** \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-fən-kʃən-ə-lɪ-ti/ *n* [poly + functional + -ity]

poly-ga-la \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-lə/ *n* [NL, fr. L, fr. Gk *polygala* milkwort, fr. *poly* much (fr. *polys* much, many) + *gala* milk — more at **POLY-** GALAXY] 1 *cap*: a genus (type of the family Polygalaceae) of herbs and shrubs of temperate and warm regions having many-colored often showy flowers with the three sometimes crested petals united below into a tube and an irregular calyx with two petaloid lobes — see GAYWINGS, MILK-WORT, SENECA ROOT 2 *s*: any plant of the genus *Polygala*

poly-ga-la-ce-ae \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-lə-ˈseɪ/ *n* *pl*, *cap* [NL, fr. *Polygala*, type genus + -aceae]: a family of the Geraniales of herbs, shrubs, or small trees widely distributed throughout both hemispheres and having irregular flowers with three to five petals, monadelphous stamens, and five sepals of which the two lateral are petaloid — **poly-ga-la-ce-ous** \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-lə-ˈseɪ-əs/ *adj* **poly-ga-la-lac-ta** \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-lə-lak-tə/ *n* [NL, fr. *poly* + *galact-* + -ia]: excessive milk secretion

poly-ga-lac-tu-ro-nase \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-ləkt-ur-ə-nās/ *n*, *pl*, *cap* [NL, fr. *poly* + *galact-* + -ase]: an enzyme that hydrolyzes the glycosidic linkages of polymerized galacturonic acids (as pectic acid) and that occurs esp. in microorganisms — compare PECTINASE

poly-ga-lac-tol \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-ləkt-ol/ *n* [NL, fr. *Polygala* + *E* + -itol]: a crystalline anhydride C₁₂H₁₀O₅ of sorbitol found in species of milkwort (as *Polygala amara*); 1,5-anhydro-D-glucitol — called also 1,5-sorbitol

poly-gam \pə-ˈliːn-ɡəm/ *n* [NL *Polygamia*]: a plant of the class Polygamia

poly-gamia \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-mi-ə/ *n* *pl*, *cap* [NL, fr. Gk *polygamos* polygamous + NL -ia] in former classifications: a class of plants with both hermaphrodite and unisexual flowers on the same plant — **poly-gami-an** \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-mi-ən/ *adj*

poly-gam-ic \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-mik/ *adj* also **poly-gam-i-cal** \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-mik-əl/ *adj* [poly + gam + -ic or -ical]: POLYGAMOUS — **poly-gam-i-cal-ly** \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-mik-əl-lee/ *adv*

poly-ga-mist \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-mist/ *n*: one who practices polygamy — **poly-ga-mis-tic** \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-mis-tik/ *adj*

poly-ga-mize \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-maɪz/ *vi* -ED/-ING/-s *see* -ize in *Explan Notes*: to practice polygamy

poly-ga-mo-dioecious \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-mo-dio-ˈsiː-əs/ *adj* [polygamous + dioecious]: having some plants polygamous and some dioecious in the same species

poly-ga-mous \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-məs/ *adj* [Gk *polygamos*, fr. *poly* + *gamos* -gamous] 1 *s*: of, relating to, characterized by, or involving polygamy; having a plurality of husbands (~ marriages) 2 *s*: bearing both hermaphrodite and unisexual flowers on the same plant 3 *zool*: having more than one mate at the same time — **poly-ga-mous-ly** *adv*

poly-ga-my \pə-ˈliːn-ɡə-mi/ *n* [MF *polygamie*, fr. LL *polygamia*, fr. Gk, fr. *poly* + *gamia* (fr. *gamos* marriage + *la* -y) — more at **BIGAMY**] 1 *s*: the state or fact of being polygamous; *specif*: a marriage form in which a spouse of either sex may possess a plurality of mates at the same time — used either inclusively of both polygyny and polyandry or exclusively of polygyny (among the Batak of Palawan both ~ and polyandry exist) (the Mormons' former practice of ~); compare **BIGAMY**, **ENDOGAMY** 2 *s*: possession of a plurality of beneficial flowers on the same plant 4 *zool*: the condition of having more than one mate at one time

the genome — compare MULTIPLE FACTOR, QUANTITATIVE INHERITANCE

poly-genetic \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪk/ *adj* [poly + genetic]: of or relating to polygenism

poly-genesis \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪ-sɪs/ *n* [NL, fr. *poly* + *genesis*] 1: phylogenetic origin — used esp. of infrahuman species; called also **polyphyletic**; compare POLYGENY 2: POLYGENISM — **poly-genist** \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪst/ *n* *s*

poly-genetic \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪk/ *adj* [poly + genetic] 1: having many distinct sources: originating at various places or times 2: of or relating to polygenesis: POLYPHYLETIC 3 *a* *dye*: yielding more than one color or shade according to the mordant — **poly-genetically** \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪ-kəl-lee/ *adv*

poly-gen-ic \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪk/ *adj* [poly + -genic; orig. formed as *F* *polygenicus*] 1: POLYGENY 2: POLYGENETIC 3 [poly + -ic; of, relating to, mediated by, or constituting] polygenes **poly-genic system** *n*: a group of polygenes

poly-g-enism \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪz-əm/ *n* [poly + -ism] 1: the doctrine or belief that existing human races have evolved from two or more distinct ancestral types — compare MONOGENISM **poly-g-enist** \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪst/ *n* [poly + -ist]: one who accepts the doctrine of polygenism

poly-g-enis-tic \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪs-tik/ *adj*: of or relating to polygenism **poly-genome hybrid** or **poly-genomic hybrid** \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪk-ə-ˈhaɪ-brɪd/ *n* [poly + genome + hybrid]: a hybrid individual that has more than two complete genomes which are derived from two or more dissimilar parents

poly-g-e-nous \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪs/ *adj* [poly + -genous]: consisting of or containing many kinds or elements (a ~ nation)

poly-g-e-ny \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒen-ɪ-nee/ *n* [poly + -geny] 1: the descent of man from two or more independent pairs of ancestors — compare MONOGENY 2: POLYGENISM

poly-germ \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒɜːm/ *n* [poly + germ]: a cluster of germ cells or morulae in the polyembryonic development of some parasitic insects — **poly-germinal** \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒɜːm-əl/ *adj*

poly-glandular \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒl-ən-dy-ˈlary/ *adj* [poly + glandular]: of, relating to, or involving several glands (a ~ endocrinopathy)

poly-glob-ula \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒl-ə-ˈbul-ə/ *n* [NL, fr. *poly* + *globula* + NL -a]: POLYCYTHEMIA

poly-glob-u-lism \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒl-ə-ˈbul-iz-əm/ *n* [NL *polyglobulia* + *E* -ism]: POLYCYTHEMIA

poly-glot \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒl-ət/ *n*, *pl* -s [Gk *polyglōtos*, *polyglōtos* speaking many languages, many-tongued, fr. *poly* + *glōttos* -glōttos tongue (fr. *glōtta*, *glōssa* tongue, language) — more at **GLOSS**] 1: one who speaks or writes several languages 2 *usu* *cap*: a book containing versions of the same text in several languages arranged for comparison use in parallel columns; esp.: the Scriptures in several languages *b*: an edition of the Bible containing a monolingual text taken from a multilingual Bible 3: a mixture or confusion of languages or nomenclatures (a ~ of diagnostic labels and systems) — G.N. Raines

polyglot \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒl-ət/ *adj* 1 *a*: speaking or writing several or many languages: MULTILINGUAL (a ~ traveler) *b*: composed of or belonging to numerous linguistic groups (a ~ population) (a city of sharp extremes between the rich and transient and the mass of ~ poor — *Reporter*) (catering to the thousands of ~ seamen — *Amer. Guide Series: N.Y. City*) 2: containing matter in several languages (a ~ sign) (a ~ dictionary); esp.: composed of correlative text in several languages often arranged in parallel columns (a ~ Bible) 3: composed of elements of different languages (verbose, erudite, and ~ slang — H. Sykes) (researchers which the coordinated natural and social sciences could make upon the problems of society — J.R. Newman) 2: having a surface marked by a pattern of more or less polygonal blocks or spaces — see POLYGON 2 (~ ground) (~ soil) — **poly-glot-ly** \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒl-ət-lee/ *adv*

poly-glycol \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒl-ək-əl/ *n* [poly + glycol]: a polyethylene glycol or related compound of the ether-glycol type containing several ether linkages that yields one or more glycols on hydrolysis of these linkages

poly-gon \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒɒn/ *n* [NL *polygonum*, fr. Gk *polygonon*, fr. *poly* + *gonon* (fr. *gōnia* angle, corner) — more at **-GON**] 1 *a*: a closed figure consisting of straight lines joined end to end *b*: a closed figure on the surface of a sphere consisting of arcs of great circles joined end to end

poly-gon-al \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒɒn-əl/ *adj* 1: having many sides (a ~ figure) 2 *a*: a polygon or approximately polygonal object, area, or arrangement *b*: an often hexagonal block or arrangement of surficial material (as soil) forming part of a uniform pattern and often caused by alternate freezing and thawing of the crust — *usu.* used in *pl.* (mud ~s) (stone ~s) (ice ~s)

poly-gon-na-ce-ae \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒɒn-ə-ˈseɪ/ *n* *pl*, *cap* [NL, fr. *Polygonum*, type genus + -aceae]: a family of herbs, shrubs, or trees (order Polygonales) chiefly of the north temperate zone having mostly entire leaves with stipules forming a sheath round the stem and flowers that are spicate and apetalous and including the buckwheats — **poly-gon-na-ce-ous** \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒɒn-ə-ˈseɪ-əs/ *adj*

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poly-gon-na-l \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒɒn-ə-l/ *adj*: having many sides (a ~ figure) 2 *a*: a polygon or approximately polygonal object, area, or arrangement *b*: an often hexagonal block or arrangement of surficial material (as soil) forming part of a uniform pattern and often caused by alternate freezing and thawing of the crust — *usu.* used in *pl.* (mud ~s) (stone ~s) (ice ~s)

lines, fr. *poly* + -grammos (fr. *grammē* line, fr. *graphē* to write) — more at **CARVE**] a figure determined by many lines

polygram \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒrəm/ *n* [poly + (as in *polygraph*) + -gram]: a tracing made by a polygraph

poly-graph \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒrəf/ *n* [Gk *polygraphos* writing much, fr. *poly* + *graphos* (fr. *graphē* to write) — more at **CARVE**] 1: a voluminous or versatile writer 2: an instrument for recording tracings of several different pulsations simultaneously (as of the pulse, blood pressure, and respiration) — compare PATHOMETER 3: LIE DETECTOR — see KEELER

POLYGRAPH 4: a cluster of two or more successive letters in cryptography

poly-graph-ic \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒrəf-ik/ *adj* 1 *a*: VOLUMINOUS, VERSATILE (a ~ writer) *b*: of a book (1): dealing with a wide range of subjects (a ~ treatise) (2): written by several authors or scribes (a ~ manuscript) 2: proceeding (as in decipherment) by groups of two or more successive letters at a time (~ substitution) 3: relating to, produced by, or employing a polygraph (~ examination of the patient) (intelligence agency's ~ screening program) — Dwight MacDonald — **poly-graph-i-cal-ly** \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒrəf-ik-lee/ *adv*

poly-graph-ist \pə-ˈliːn-ɪ-ˈdʒrəf-ist/ *n* *s*: one skilled in the use of a polygraph

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